

Don't prejudge accused priests

It was with great sickness and heartache that I read about the priests in the Nov. 1 edition of The Press. I am not of the Catholic faith, though I married into it. I have attended St. Peter's Church in Pleasantville and St. Thomas Church in Brigantine regularly for the past 18 years. My husband and son are Catholic.

A dear friend with whom I have shared laughter, tears, food and worship stands as one of the accused. This man baptized my son. I developed a great friendship and love for him, and now I weep and pray for him.

I ask you of all faiths, please do not judge these men. Jesus said, "Judge not lest you also be judged." Do not judge them until the verdict is read.

The oath of celibacy is too harsh to ask of any human being. I pray the Vatican will change this rule so its weaker clergy will no longer be forced to sin. The Bible reads: "Beware of false prophets. You shall be led like lambs to the slaughter. The church shall be sorely tested."

I appeal to those of the Catholic faith especially to hold on to your faith. It's all we have left in this chaotic world.

VERONICA CAMPBELL
Brigantine

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